

Publication Summary



Cancer Survival in Scotland 1987-2011



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About this Release

This publication provides information on cancer survival in Scotland for people who were diagnosed with cancer between 1987 and 2011. Cancer survival information is presented for 25 types of cancer in the accompanying tables.

Key Points

- Survival from cancer generally increased between the periods of diagnosis 1987-1991 and 2007-2011.
- For all cancers combined (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer), five-year age-standardised relative survival in the period of diagnosis 2007-2011 was estimated as 48% for males and 54% for females.
- Five-year age-standardised relative survival for males diagnosed in 2007-2011 varied from 3.6% for cancer of the pancreas to 93.4% for testicular cancer. For females, survival varied from 5.5% for cancer of the pancreas to 95.1% for malignant melanoma of the skin.
- Five-year age-standardised relative survival increased by approximately 19 percentage points in males and by approximately 14 percentage points in females over the period covered by this publication.
- Large absolute increases in five-year age-standardised relative survival were found in multiple myeloma, colorectal cancer, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, kidney cancer, leukaemias and female breast cancer.
- The differences between males and females in five-year relative survival were comparatively high for some cancers. For females, survival was higher in malignant melanoma of the skin and cancers of the stomach, oral cavity and thyroid. For males, survival was higher in cancer of the bladder and multiple myeloma.

Background

This report presents estimates of observed and relative survival. Observed and relative survival are explained in more detail in [Appendix A1](#) of the publication report. Survival statistics are typically expressed as a proportion of people alive at a specified time following diagnosis with cancer. In this publication, estimates are presented for the proportion of people who survived for one, three, five and ten years following diagnosis.

Although cancer survival statistics can give an indication of the likelihood of surviving a given length of time after diagnosis, it should be noted that the survival prospects of an individual may vary considerably from the 'average' survival. For example, a person who is diagnosed at an early stage is likely to survive longer than average, whereas someone diagnosed at an advanced stage is likely to have a shorter survival than average.

Trends in cancer survival reflect a complex mixture of changes in cancer diagnosis and treatment as well as changes in the lifestyle and behaviour of the population over time.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#).

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Official Statistics

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